



BOROUGH OF TOTNES

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1967

PRESENTED BY

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

B O R O U G H O F T O T N E S


ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1967

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Municipal Borough of Totnes

Annual Report on the Health of the District during 1967

P r e f a c e

To the Mayor, Aldermen, and Members of the Borough Council:-

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present herewith the Annual Report on the Health of the District drawn up in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 1/68 dated January, 1968. Included in the Report is the Report of your Chief Public Health Inspector.

At the beginning of April the Borough Health Department ceased to be amalgamated with the Totnes Rural District Health Department. Consequently the number of Health Inspectors available for duties in the Borough was reduced.

No great change occurred in the vital statistics for 1967 over previous years but there were eleven more births and thirty-seven fewer deaths than in 1966, which is encouraging, and there were no infant deaths.

A small number of cases of measles occurred in the early part of the year. It is hoped that after the Devon County Council measles vaccination campaign becomes effective, there will be a substantial drop in the number of cases of measles in future years. Twenty nine cases of Sonne' Dysentery occurred mostly in youngsters of 5 years of age or under, again in the first quarter of the year. Energetic treatment by local doctors, coupled by strict hygienic precautions carried out at the Primary School helped contain the outbreak.

The Chief Public Health Inspector draws attention to the unsatisfactory tipping arrangements at Mockwood Quarry where "controlled tipping" is not carried out. Also mentioned is alleviation of trouble at the Totnes Sewage Disposal works, due to severe overloading of the works.

I wish to thank members of the Council and staff for their support during the year.

August, 1968.

John Wildman
Medical Officer of Health

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

The Chairman was Alderman Mrs. L.B. Gray and the Vice-Chairman was Councillor Mrs. J.M. Gilbert. Also on the Committee were the Mayor and eight other members of the Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

John Wildman, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., (Lond.)
(Full time appointment commenced 17th July, 1967)

DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Mary E. Budding, M.B.B.Ch., B.Sc., D.P.H.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

F. B. Elliott, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., (until 31.3.67)
P. R. Bramley, M.A.P.H.I., (commenced 1.4.67)

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

E. P. G. Bennett, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. (until 31.3.67)
P. R. Bramley, M.A.P.H.I. (until 31.3.67)
B. Cribb, M.A.P.H.I. (commenced 1.5.67)

MEAT INSPECTOR

R. W. Addington

CLERICAL ASSISTANT

Mrs. J. Evans (until 31.3.67)
Miss S. Bridges (commenced 1.4.67)

LOCAL OFFICE

Municipal Offices,
Fore Street,
TOTNES,
S. Devon.

Tel. No. Totnes 2109
and Totnes 3350

M.O.H. CENTRAL OFFICE

Area No. 5 South West Devon,
Public Health Department,
Plympton R.D.C. Offices,
Plympton, PLYMOUTH.

Tel. No. Plymouth 36644

M.O.H. CLERK

Miss G. Prowse

Tel. No. Plymouth 36644

S e c t i o n A

VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS 1967

Table 1

Figures for 1966 are shown in brackets

POPULATION.

Estimated Mid-Year Population of Totnes Municipal Borough

5,630	(5,620)
Natural increase or decrease	- 15
Migration in or out	+ 25
Total increase or decrease	+ 10
Population at 1961 Census	5,502

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of Totnes Municipal Borough in Acres 1,421

Number of Inhabited Houses according to Rate Books - 1.4.67.

2,054	(1,918)
Number of Houses per acre	1.445 (1.350)
Number of Persons per acre	3.962 (3.954)
Number of Persons per house	2.741 (2.930)
Dwellings owned by the Council	521
<u>Rateable Value of District</u>	

£215,128 (£209,719)

Sum Represented by a Penny Rate

£850 (£843)

S e c t i o n A

VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS 1967

Table 2

Figures for 1966 are shown in brackets

BIRTHS

<u>Standardised Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population</u>	16.5	(14.19)	
Area Comparability Factor for Births	1.19	(1.19)	
<u>Number of Live Births</u>	Males	Females	Total
Total	44	34	78
Legitimate	40	33	73
Illegitimate	4	1	5
Number of Still Births	1	0	1

DEATHS

<u>Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 population</u>		9.6	(13.88)	
Area Comparability Factor for Deaths		0.58	(0.60)	
<u>Number of Deaths</u>		Males	Females	Total
<u>All Ages</u>	Total	41	52	93
<u>Death of Infants under 1 year</u>		0	0	0
Number under 4 weeks of age		0	0	0
Number under 1 week of age		0	0	0
<u>Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births</u>		0.0	(59.70)	

COMPARISON WITH RATES FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

<u>Birth Rate</u>	17.2	(17.7)	<u>Death Rate</u>	11.2	(11.7)
<u>Infantile Mortality Rate</u>					
(Infants under 1 year of age)	18.3	(19.0)			

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1967

<u>Line No.</u>		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
	ALL CAUSES	41	52	93
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	0	0	0
2.	Tuberculosis, other	0	0	0
3.	Syphilitic disease	0	0	0
4.	Diphtheria	0	0	0
5.	Whooping Cough	0	0	0
6.	Meningococcal infections	0	0	0
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
8.	Measles	0	0	0
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	0	0
10.	Malignant Neoplasms, stomach	0	0	0
11.	Malignant Neoplasms, lungs, bronchus	4	2	6
12.	Malignant Neoplasms, breast	1	1	2
13.	Malignant Neoplasms, uterus	-	0	0
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic neoplasms	2	8	10
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	0	0	0
16.	Diabetes	0	0	0
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	3	7	10
18.	Coronary disease, angina	13	4	17
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	1	2	3
20.	Other heart disease	4	5	9
21.	Other circulatory disease	0	2	2
22.	Influenza	0	0	0
23.	Pneumonia	2	2	4
24.	Bronchitis	3	1	4
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	0	0	0
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	0	1	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	0	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	0	0	0
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	0	-	0
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	0	0
31.	Congenital malformations	0	0	0
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	6	14	20
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	0	0	0
34.	All other accidents	0	1	1
35.	Suicide	1	2	3
36.	Homicide and operations of war	0	0	0

S e c t i o n B

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

1. Hospitals

There are two hospitals in the town, The Totnes and District Hospital is a general practitioner hospital and has 24 beds. Broomborough Hospital has 135 beds for chronic cases. It has a maternity wing with 13 beds and cots; this unit serves a wide area outside the town. There are also 43 beds available for residential cases under Part III of the National Assistance Act.

2. County Council Health Services

Under the National Health Service Act, the County Council provides the following services:-

Domiciliary midwives, home nurses, health visitors, supervisory care of expectant and nursing mothers and children under five, ambulance services, vaccination and immunisation procedures, home help services, and the care of persons suffering from illness or mental disorders, and the after care of such persons.

Two district nurse/midwives work in the district together with a health visitor and a nursing assistant. A child welfare clinic is held on the first, third and fifth Monday in the month at the Borough Park Clinic, and the health visitor for the area is in attendance. The home help service is provided by the County Council. A chiropody service has been made available for the handicapped, the aged, and expectant mothers. The ambulance service is operated by voluntary organisations. A "meals on wheels" service is provided by the W.R.V.S.

3. Laboratory Services

Bacteriological examinations of pathological specimens and samples of milk, water, and ice cream, are carried out at the Public Health Laboratories at Exeter and Plymouth. The chemical analysis of water is undertaken by Public Analysts at Exeter.

4. Home Help Service

The Home Help Organiser has an office at 43 Fore Street, Totnes, Telephone: Totnes 2663 (between 9 and 10 a.m.) The demand for this service is ever increasing and provides essential domestic help in cases of maternity, sickness, convalescence, old age and infirmity. It is not free, but those unable to pay the full charges are assessed according to their means.

Section C

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES: Cases Notified During 1967

Table I

<u>DISEASE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Age Group in Years</u>					
		Under					Over
		1	1-	5-	15-	25-	65
Measles	40	4	25	9	0	2	0
Dysentery	29	1	9	14	0	5	0

Table II

<u>DISEASE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Incidence by Quarters</u>			
		1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Measles	40	7	25	8	0
Dysentery	29	29	0	0	0

INTERNATIONAL VACCINATION CERTIFICATES

International certificates of vaccination were authenticated by the Public Health Department during the year of 1967 as follows:

Smallpox	72
Cholera	16

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS 1948 and 1951

No action was necessary under these Acts for the compulsory removal of persons in need of care and attention. No burials took place under Section 50 of the 1948 Act.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. WATER

2053 dwellings received a piped supply from the South West Devon Water Board. Two dwellings are served by a standpipe and one has its own private supply.

All samples taken from the main supply have been satisfactory.

2. REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The Council undertakes a once-weekly kerbside collection of refuse. No serious difficulty has been experienced in maintaining the service.

Disposal is by means of crude tipping at Hockwood Quarry, and it is only by reason of its location, well away from domestic premises, that conditions do not give rise to serious nuisance. Owing to limited financial resources and insufficient covering materials, it has not been possible to carry out proper controlled tipping. Regular use is made of a bulldozer to keep the tip tidy and fortunately there were no complaints received during the year.

The two side loading refuse vehicles are rapidly deteriorating and consideration will need to be given to replacing these in the near future. It is hoped that when the time does arrive, more efficient and hygienic vehicles will replace them, in accordance with the recommendations of the Working Party Report on Refuse Collection.

In September, a charge was introduced for the removal of trade refuse.

3. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The automation of the electrical equipment associated with the spray irrigation of effluent at the sewage treatment works before it is discharged via a stream to the river is causing trouble, but overall the remedial scheme has been successful in that analytical reports have shown that standards generally speaking have been close to the temporary standards imposed by the Devon River Authority.

The additional land required for spraying purposes has still not been acquired.

Schemes in broad outline form for both sewerage and sewage disposal have been submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and in the meantime, certain works will be carried out at the sewage disposal works to improve the treatment process.

4. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The Rodent Operator is shared with Totnes Rural District Council.

Properties Other Than Sewers

1. No. properties in district
2. (a) Total No. properties
(including nearby premises)
inspected following notification
(b) No. infested by (i) rats
(ii) mice
3. (a) Total No. properties
inspected for rats and/or mice
for reasons other than
notification
(b) No. infested by (i) rats
(ii) mice

Type of Property	
Non Agricultural	Agricultural
2,698	11
78	-
73	-
4	-
135	9
69	3
-	-

Sewers

4. Test baiting and treatment of the Council's sewers were carried out in accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Only small pockets of infestation were revealed.

5. COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There is no common lodging house in the town.

6. OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Class of premises	Premises newly registered during 1967	Total No. of Registered premises at end of 1967	No. of premises receiving a General inspection during 1967
Offices	-	27	4
Retail Shops,	1	82	16
Wholesale Shops, warehouses	-	2	1
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	-	6	4
Fuel storage depots	-	2	2
Total	1	119	25

7. PUBLIC HEALTH VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

Housing Acts

Housing Survey	57
Housing Repairs	22
Improvement Grants	101
Housing Management	230

Public Health Acts

Complaints and Nuisances	80
Dirty Premises	4
Refuse Collection & Disposal	63
Drainage	28
Water Sampling	2
Infectious Diseases	91

Food and Drugs Act

Unsound Food and Food Complaints	39
Meat Inspection	628
Cafes and Catering Establishments	38
Public Houses	17
Grocers	46
Bakehouses	4
Market Stalls	113
Food Factories	43
Street Traders	31
Food Vending Machines	2
Slaughterhouses	26

Inspections under the:

Factories Act	34
Caravan Sites & Control of Development Act	8
Offices Shops and Railway Premises Act	50
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act	170
Animal Boarding Establishments Act	1
Petroleum Regulations	14

Miscellaneous Visits	24
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8. NOTICES SERVED

Public Health Act, 1936	
(S. 83 and 84 - 1, S.75 - 1, S.39 - 2.)	4
Offices Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963	5
Factories Act, 1961	2
Food Hygiene Regulations, 1960	19
Markets, Stalls & Delivery Vehicle Regs. 1960	20
Slaughterhouses Hygiene Regulations, 1958	2

9. LICENCES AND REGISTRATIONS

Slaughtermen	15	Pet Animals	2
Slaughterhouses	2	Animal Boarding Estabs.	1
Petroleum	12	Scrap Metal Dealers	1

S E C T I O N E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

In spite of staff changes and disruption of the smooth running of the Department when integration with the Rural District Council, Public Health Department ended in April, 320 inspections and visits of all types of food premises were made and resulted in 39 informal notices being served in respect of contraventions of food hygiene legislation. The Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, introduced in 1966 placed an additional burden of work on the Department.

The standard of food hygiene has remained generally constant throughout the year. In several establishments, both large and small, there is yet a need for all round improvement in the practices of food handlers and a greater awareness on the part of management of their responsibilities to a general public which is expected to consume the food in which they deal.

Type of Food Premise	No.	Comply with Reg. 16 (handwashing) (facilities)	To which Reg. 19 (Equipment) (washing)	Comply with Reg. 19 (facilities)
Grocery and General provisions	24	23	24	24
Butchers	8	5	8	8
Greengrocers	3	1	3	3
Fishmongers	1	-	1	1
Confectioners	13	12	-	-
Licensed premises	15	13	15	15
Cafes and hotels	14	4	14	12
Bakehouses	3	2	3	3
Schools and industrial canteens	3	3	3	3
Food Factories	4	4	4	4
Slaughterhouses	2	-	-	-

2. FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955 S.16.

Registered food premises (no. on Register at 31.12.67)	42
Storage and sale of Ice Cream	33
Manufacture or sale of sausages etc.	9

3. INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

During the year of 1967, the following food stuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption:

58 lbs. pork	24 1 lb. jars of jam
107 lbs. beef	6½ ozs. prawns
6 lbs. ox tongue	3 ozs. cheese spread
46 lbs. ham	
61 lbs. meat	

4.	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Killed and Inspected	81	7	1	1,139	54,483	-
<u>All Diseases Except T.B. and Cysticercosis</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	1	47	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	14	4	1	54	8,886	-
% affected with disease	17.2	57.0	100	4.8	16.4	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	2,132	-
% affected with disease	-	-	-	-	3.9	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	6	-	-
% affected with disease	-	-	-	.5	-	-

S e c t i o n F

HOUSING

1. UNFIT HOUSES

The following houses have been the subject of action under the Housing Act, 1957.

Slum Clearance

6, 7, and 8 Leechwell Lane

23 and 24, South Street.

Demolition Orders

39a, High Street.

2. IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Discretionary Grants

(a)	Applications received	2
(b)	No. completed	5
(c)	Amount paid in grant	£1,601.

Standard Grants

(a)	Applications received	1
(b)	No. completed	9
(c)	Amount paid in grant	£1,100.

A p p e n d i x a

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1967. FOR THE

BOROUGH OF TOTNES IN

THE COUNTY OF DEVON

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the

Factories Act, 1961

Part I of the Act

Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises (1)	No. on Register (2)	Number of		Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	
Factories in which Secs. 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	4	-	-
Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7, is enforced by the Local Authority	39	30	2	-
Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	45	34	2	-

Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	R e f e r r e d		
			To H.M. Inspr.	By H.M. Inspr.	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Lack of cleanliness (Sec. 1.)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (Sec. 2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (Sec.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (Sec.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage on floor (Sec.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (Sec.7)					
(a) insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	1	-	-	-	-
(c) not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	1	-	-	-	-
Total	2	-	-	-	-

Part VIII of the Act - Outwork

Section 133

Nature of work	No. of outworkers in August	No. of cases of default in sending list to Council	No. of prose- cutions for failure to supply lists
-	-	-	-

Section 134

No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices Served	Prosecutions
-	-	-

